

THE STATE COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS IN NEW YORK.

The State Charities Aid Association, continuing its successful efforts of last season in behalf of epileptics, and in accordance with the recommendation of the State Board of Charities in its recent report to the Legislature, has caused a bill to be introduced into the Assembly for the establishment of a State Colony for dependent epileptics, following in some respects the plan of the Colony for Epileptics, in Bielefeld, Westphalia.

The poorhouses and almshouses cannot give such cases proper care, and the Superintendents of the Poor unite with the State Board of Charities, and the State Charities Aid Association, in asking the Legislature to make suitable provision for epileptics in a State Institution.

It will be remembered that the State Charities Aid Association secured at the last session of the Legislature the passage of an act providing for the appointment of a Commission for the selection of a site and plan for an Epileptic Colony in this State.

The Commission, consisting of Messrs. Craig, Letchworth and Walrath, of the State Board of Charities, made their report to the Legislature early this month, recommending the purchase of a fine tract of land, about 1,800 acres, situated in the Genesee Valley, Livingston County, and now owned by the Sonyea Society of Christian Believers, with buildings thereon.

This property is admirably adapted for the objects in view, as is fully shown by the Report of the Commission. The land is extremely fertile, there is a fine water supply, the climate is healthy, and the buildings, which include a church or chapel, schoolhouse, a structure suitable for a hospital, a laundry, dining hall, and numerous cottages for dwellings and shops, besides extensive barns and stables, are just what will be needed in the Colony.

These 1,800 acres and the buildings upon them can be purchased for the moderate sum of \$125,000, and can be made ready for occupancy at but little additional cost.

The bill asks for an appropriation of \$150,000 for the above purposes.

The Colony is to be controlled by a Board of nine Managers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

The establishment of such a colony will be an incalculable blessing to the five or six hundred dependent epileptics now scattered through the poorhouses and almshouses of the State, and to a very large number of poor and indigent epileptics outside the poorhouses, offering them a chance of education and employment in trades and industries and in agricultural life. It is intended to make the Colony self-supporting so far as practicable.

From an economical point of view a great opportunity is offered the State, and from a humane point of view, a still greater.

In the Colony, epileptics will receive special and scientific care, and let us hope that at some future time a cure for this dreaded disease may possibly be found, as one beneficent outcome of the establishment of this Colony.

The following is the bill which has been drafted by a special Committee, of the State Charities Aid Association, composed of

MRS. GERTRUDE S. RICE, *Chairman*.
PROF. CHARLES F. CHANDLER,
MISS LOUISA LEE SCHUYLER,
JUDGE HENRY E. HOWLAND,
HON. JOHN M. BOWERS *and*
FREDERICK PETERSON, M. D.